

**MINUTES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION**

May 17, 2007

Fairfax County Government Center,
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room #9
Chairperson, S. Liff, presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners: Chelena, Geier-Smith, Gomez
Kocsis, Liff, McRae, Mosgrave, Rosier,

Absentees:

Aho, Walde

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Acting Director
Cable Communications and Consumer
Protection
Susan C. Jones, Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by Chairperson Liff.

Minutes

The April 17, 2007 meeting minutes were approved.

Reports

- Chairperson's report – Chairperson Liff shared information from articles about tenant issues.

- **Committee reports** - There were no Committee reports.

Staff reports

- Liaison Johnson provided a summary of the Strike Force assembled by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The strike force is scheduled to begin action by June 1, 2007 to tighten enforcement of zoning ordinances, building codes and health & safety codes.
- A review of the commissioner's attendance record was conducted. Discrepancies were noted. Staff will be review and present an update of the attendance record at the June meeting.
- Liaison Johnson provided copies of Chapter 12 of the Fairfax County Code & Section 55-248.13 of the VRLTA for consideration in the review of the Bylaws.
- Liaison Johnson reported that a Consumer Protection Commission arbitration hearing is scheduled for July. Commissioners will be notified when a date is selected.
- Liaison Johnson provided copies of the following for review by the commissioners:
 - Draft Tenant-Landlord Commission Sign.
 - Draft resource list for tenants based on collaboration with the Property Maintenance Section of the Zoning Enforcement Branch, Environmental Health Section of the Department of Health, and the Consumer Affairs Branch. Commissioners may provide input by e-mailing comments to Liaison Johnson by June 1, 2007.
- Liaison Johnson invited commissioners to join the DCCCP staff for Celebrate Fairfax! on June 9-10, 2007. Commissioners Mosgrave and Geier-Smith volunteered to join staff. Other commissioners desiring to volunteer should notify Liaison Johnson by May 31, 2007.
- Chief Jones reviewed the current statistical reports.

Commission Matters

- Chairperson Liff reported that Commissioner Aho is working on the proposed letter of recognition for Liaison Wagner. An update regarding the letter will be provided at the June meeting.

Old Business

1. Tenant-Landlord program for Cable Channel 16
 - Due to technical difficulties, a viewing of a previously broadcast Consumer Focus program was not possible. Acting Director Liberman offered to prepare a DVD of a program to be mailed to commissioners for discussion at the June meeting.
 - Acting Director Liberman reminded commissioners that the next production quarter starts on July 1, 2007. Liaison Johnson will submit a communication request on behalf of the Tenant-Landlord Commission for the production of a 30 minute Consumer Focus program during the upcoming quarter.
 - Commissioners discussed selecting one commissioner to provide direct input during the production process on behalf of the commission. Designation of a commissioner was deferred until the June meeting.

New Business

- Chairperson Liff introduced Commissioner Barbara A. Mosgrave, who was appointed by Supervisor Smyth on 4/30/07. She was welcomed by all.
- Commissioners began discussion of the Bylaws. By unanimous agreement, the commissioners agreed to review the Bylaws individually and e-mail comments to Liaison Johnson by June 8, 2007. Staff will format responses for a joint discussion at the June meeting. Proposed changes will be presented at the June meeting and a vote taken in July 2007.
- Commissioner Rosier expressed interest in sending a letter to local newspapers about the Tenant-Landlord Commission. Item was discussed but no motion was made or action taken at this time.
- Commissioners discussed the topics listed in Attachment C. Changes were requested. Staff will update list. Commissioners will use this list for discussion topics at monthly meetings as well as educational outreach events.

The remaining agenda topics were deferred until the June meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.